NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONTROL PROJECTS

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COEUR D'ALENE, IDAHO
APRIL, 1925

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J. M. Miller

Circular Apr. 1925
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By

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During the past season a barrier plan of control was instituted in the Missoula National Forest in an attempt to prevent the serious outbreak of the mountain pine beetle, which started some fifteen years ago, from reaching the valuable lodgepole pine forests of the Big Hole Basin. This plan called for the treatment of all infested trees to the south of a line of defence for a period of several years or until the epidemic to the north had died down. Several hundred trees were treated in May 1924, which at that time was believed to be all of the infestation to the south of the line. Later in the season it developed that the outbreak had progressed further south than had been assumed at the institution of the work, which made the abandonment of that line of defence necessary. Plans are under way for the establishment of a new line of defence across the present head of the infestation.

In an attempt to determine the economics of maintenance control for the further reduction of endemic infestations of the mountain pine beetle in the white pine stands of northern Idaho, a project was instituted on the head waters of the Coeur d' Alene River, in May 1924. The actual results of the experiment will not be known until the 1925 season and additional work will be conducted if necessary this season.

During the past season an outbreak of a sawfly and a needle tyer was discovered in the lodgepole pine stands at West Yellowstone, Montana. Some twenty-five square miles of timber had been killed and the

infested area was of at least one hundred square miles. To protect the scenic value of the road sides, a strip of timber along each side of the West Yellowstone road was sprayed for a distance of five miles. The operation was very successful, but will need be repeated each year until the outbreak in the adjacent areas have subsided.

In an attempt to improve the present methods of barkbeetle control an experiment was instituted in a lodgepole pine forest of Montana infested with the mountain pine beetle. Under the assumption that if the trees, which are thin barked, could be dried out while the broods of insects are developing they would be destroyed. The trees were girdled in different manners at two different times following the 1924 attack. It was hoped that the girdling would prevent additional moisture being drawn from the soil, and result in a more rapid drying out of the tree. The success of this work experiment will not be determined until June 1925.

Control measures will be instituted on the Helena National Forest in order to reduce an outbreak of the mountain pine beetle in the lodgepole pine stands of the Magpie Creek drainage.

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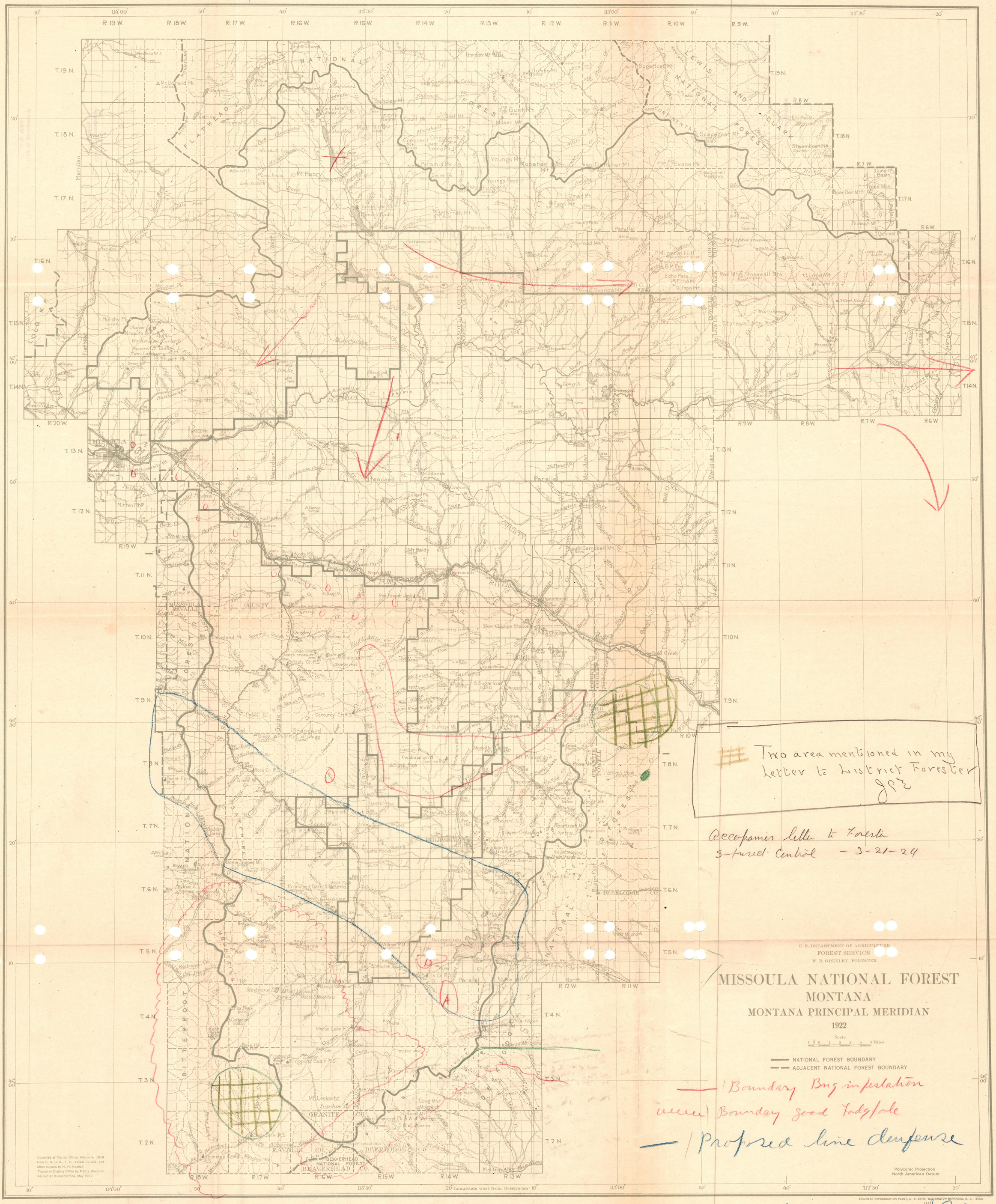
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COEUR D'ALENE NATIONAL FOREST
MISSOULA COUNTY
GRANITE CO.
RAVALLI CO.
DEERLODGE CO.
BEAVERHEAD NATIONAL FOREST
BEAVERHEAD CO.
Mt. Henry
Pyramid Pk.
Youngs Mt.
Monahan Mt.
Gordon Mt.
Jumbo Mt.
Sugarloaf Mt.
Black Mt.
Scapegoat Mt.
Steamboat Mt.
Evans Pk.
Mineral Hill
Stonewall Mts.
Lone Mt.
Red Mt.
Echo Mt.
Clifton Mt.
Ovando Mt.
Spread Mt.
Fenn Mt.
Omar Mt.
Table Mt.
Bear Den Mt.
Blowout Mt.
Burned Pt.
Stonewall Stn.
Echo Pass
Elk Pass
McDonnell Meadows
Cuniff Basin
Standard
Parallel
North
Missoula
Mt. Jumbo
Mt. Sentinel
Mt. Dean
Mt. Jumbo
Mt. Bonner
Mt. Baldy
Mt. Campbell

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